Populus tremuloides - Betula papyrifera - (Acer rubrum, Populus grandidentata) Forest (Aspen - Birch - Red Maple Forest)

COMMON NAME   Trembling Aspen - Paper Birch - (Red Maple, Bigtooth Aspen) Forest
SYNONYM   Aspen - Birch - Red Maple Forest
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS   Forest (I)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS   Deciduous forest (I.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP   Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP   Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N)
FORMATION   Montane or boreal cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.b)
ALLIANCE   POPULUS TREMULOIDES - BETULA PAPYRIFERA FOREST ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM TERRESTRIAL

RANGE
Voyageurs National Park
This type is very localized in the park and is not treated separately from other aspen-birch types.

Globally
This community is found in Ontario, northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and Michigan.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION
Voyageurs National Park

Globally
This community is mostly found on level to rolling topography. It can occur on upper slopes or plateaus or in valley bottoms (Ohmann and Ream 1971). The soil is typically deep, sandy loam or loamy sand (Alban *et al.* 1991). The sites are on glacial outwash, lacustrine deposits, or moraines (Ohmann and Ream 1971, Sims *et al.* 1989). Most are well drained; however, this community can be found on somewhat poorly drained sites.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES
Voyageurs National Park
Stratum   Species

Globally
Stratum   Species
Tree canopy   *Populus tremuloides, Betula papyrifera, Acer rubrum*
Tall shrub   *Corylus cornuta*
Forb   *Aster macrophyllus, Aralia nudicaulis*

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES
Voyageurs National Park

Globally
Populus tremuloides, Betula papyrifera, Acer rubrum, Corylus cornuta

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION
Voyageurs National Park
This type was not described separately at Voyageurs National Park.

Globally
This deciduous forest community has a moderately closed canopy usually dominated by *Populus tremuloides* and *Betula papyrifera*. *Acer rubrum* and *Populus grandidentata* may be absent to dominant. Other minor components of the overstory may include *Abies balsamea*, *Pinus resinosa*, *Pinus strobus*, *Picea glauca*, and *Quercus rubra*. The shrub layer is approximately 2 meters tall and often well developed (MN NHP 1993). The most abundant species are *Acer spicataum*, *Amelanchier* spp., *Corylus cornuta*, *Diervilla lonicera*, and *Rosa acicularis*. Other shrubs

present include *Lonicera canadensis*, *Rubus pubescens, Vaccinium angustifolium*, and *Vaccinium myrtilloides*. The herbaceous layer tends to contain many species. Common species include *Aralia nudicaulis*, *Aster macrophyllus*, *Clintonia borealis*, *Maianthemum canadense*, *Trientalis borealis*, and *Viola* spp.

CONSERVATION RANK   G5.

DATABASE CODE CEGL002467

COMMENTS
Voyageurs National Park
The Aspen-Birch-Red Maple Forest contains *Acer rubrum* in place of *Abies balsamea* in the subcanopy and shrub layers. The Aspen-Birch-Red Maple Forest, however, is very rare in the park, and where *Acer rubrum* and *Acer balsamea* occur mixed in the subcanopy and shrub layers, the stand is considered an Aspen-Birch/Boreal Conifer Forest.

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